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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 4 March 1949

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SUBJECT Survey of German Property in Austria by
USIA German Properties Department

NO. OF PAGES 2

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ACQUIRED

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1. The German Properties Department of USIA has been given a fourteen-page list indicating the firms with rail sidings connected with the Austrian railway system and showing the length of siding in each case. The Department has been ordered to determine the location of the main offices of the firms listed and, if any, to indicate the extent of German ownership. The list includes agricultural cooperatives and many former German Wehrmacht installations. [redacted] this apparently means that the Soviets are attempting to determine exactly how much material they can claim. 50X1-HUM
2. The survey of the indebtedness of firms having some degree of German ownership to partially or completely German-owned banks has been completed. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
The total indebtedness is 11,600,000 schillings. [redacted]
[redacted] figure is not necessarily final; it includes only firms on which the Department has no case files. The total may be increased as new cases are processed. 50X1-HUM
3. The Department has been ordered to prepare a list of all bonds and securities on the Vienna Stock Exchange, showing the following:
- a. Series** numbers and other identifications
 - b. Securities traded and at what price
 - c. Bonds cancelled (sic), lost, or otherwise decreased in value for decrease
 - d. Present value
- The purpose of this last request has not been ascertained.***
4. In their search for German properties, the Soviets are now concentrating on possible German-owned machinery and equipment. An inventory of the Austrian construction firm [redacted] which is being studied, includes electric motors, narrow gauge rolling stock and trackage, and cranes and winches. 50X1-HUM
5. The Soviets have not confiscated any property since the spring of 1948, but have forced the firms whose German ownership has been established to sign a

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document agreeing not to change the ownership status of the firms without permission of the Soviet authorities. Marksteiner, an Austrian employee of the German Properties Department of USIA, is allegedly contemplating resigning in protest against the Soviet methods employed in this procedure.

6. According to Wanek, German Properties Department real estate expert, the total value of partly or completely German-owned buildings in the International Sector of Vienna is 280,000,000 as estimated on the basis of conditions in May 1945.

Comment: Possibly serial numbers is meant.)

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Comment: A firm in Vienna I, which is not controlled by USIA.)

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